

**Is your
public playground
a safe place to play?**

Each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.

Use this simple checklist to help make sure your local community or school playground is a safe place to play.

Public Playground Safety Checklist



1

Make sure **surfaces** around playground equipment have at least 12 inches wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

2

Check that protective **surfacing extends** at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.

3

Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are **spaced** at least 9 feet apart.

4

Check for **dangerous hardware**, like open “S” hooks or protruding bolt ends

5

Make sure **spaces** that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

6

Check for **sharp points or edges** in equipment.

7

Look out for **tripping hazards**, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.

8

Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have **guardrails** to prevent falls.

9

Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.

10

Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

Brought to you by:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) oversees the safety of playground equipment and many other consumer products. For more information, call CPSC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772 or visit its web site at www.cpsc.gov.



our work is child's play

KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit organization committed to building safe playgrounds for America's children through the KaBOOM! LET US PLAY campaign. For more information, call toll-free 1-888-789-PLAY or visit the KaBOOM! web site at www.kaboom.org.